

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7003

By Ford, O.

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Bobby “Blue” Bland on the celebration of his eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with many exemplary citizens who have made significant contributions to the field of music; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding musician who has become a permanent fixture of American music is Mr. Bobby “Blue” Bland, who will celebrate his eightieth birthday on January 27, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Bobby “Blue” Bland is a native Tennessean and legendary singer whose vocal genius helped craft the modern soul-blues sound and who has influenced generations of blues, R&B, and rock vocalists; and

WHEREAS, a 1981 inductee to the Blues Foundation’s Hall of Fame and a 1992 inductee to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Bobby “Blue” Bland has achieved the pinnacle of success in his musical career, which began in his teenage years when he began singing with a Memphis gospel group, The Miniatures; and

WHEREAS, Robert Calvin Bland was born on January 27, 1930, in Rosemark and moved with his mother at the age of seventeen to Memphis, where he worked in a garage during the week and sang spirituals on weekends, eventually associating with the city’s most influential Delta musicians; and

WHEREAS, also during his time in Memphis, Mr. Bland was an original member of the Beale Streeters, alongside fellow music legends B.B. King, Johnny Ace, Willie Nix, Roscoe Gordon, and Junior Parker, and

WHEREAS, nobly putting his musical career on hiatus to serve his country, Mr. Bland entered the United States Army in 1952; and

WHEREAS, after two years in the Army, Mr. Bland returned to Memphis, where he would begin his long-term relationship with Duke Records, which would result in numerous top-selling albums in the R&B market; and

WHEREAS, since 1957, Bobby Bland has recorded more than thirty R&B Top 20 singles, including "I Pity the Fool," "Don't Cry No More," "Farther Up the Road," and "I'll Take Care of You"; his song "Turn On Your Love Light" has gone on to become an R&B standard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bland has registered an amazing fifty-one singles total on the R&B Top Forty charts and has enjoyed crossover success with four singles entering the pop Top Forty; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Bobby "Blue" Bland has been honored with the Recording Academy's coveted Lifetime Achievement Grammy and the Blues Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, a fixture on the blues concert circuit boasting an extensive recording catalogue, as he approaches his ninth decade, Bobby "Blue" Bland continues to wow audiences with his magnificently toned voice, charisma, magnetism, and sophisticated style; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bland epitomizes the spirit and dedication that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Tennessee music legend Bobby "Blue" Bland on the celebration of his eightieth birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.